OBN NEWS

July/Aug./Sept. 1992

OBN News, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2C9 Infoline: (416)-925-XTRA ext. 2015 / Fax: (416)-649-1314

The Ontario Bisexual Network (OBN) is a group formed to enable contacts among bisexual people in Ontario, and to help them undertake activities of interest. At present, these activities include: a mailing list, a newsletter, support group meetings, social activities, a political action group, education of others, information sharing, and safe sexuality information. The network's only mandate is to bring people together. — OBN Meeting, August 2, 1990.

HUMAN RIGHTS TRIBUNAL BACKS SAME-GENDER RELATIONSHIPS

TORONTO, September 1, 1992 — An Ontario Human Rights Tribunal has ordered the Ontario Government to pay survivor pensions to partners of gay and lesbian civil servants.

The Tribunal has interpreted the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as providing that gay and heterosexual couples have equal status and worth.

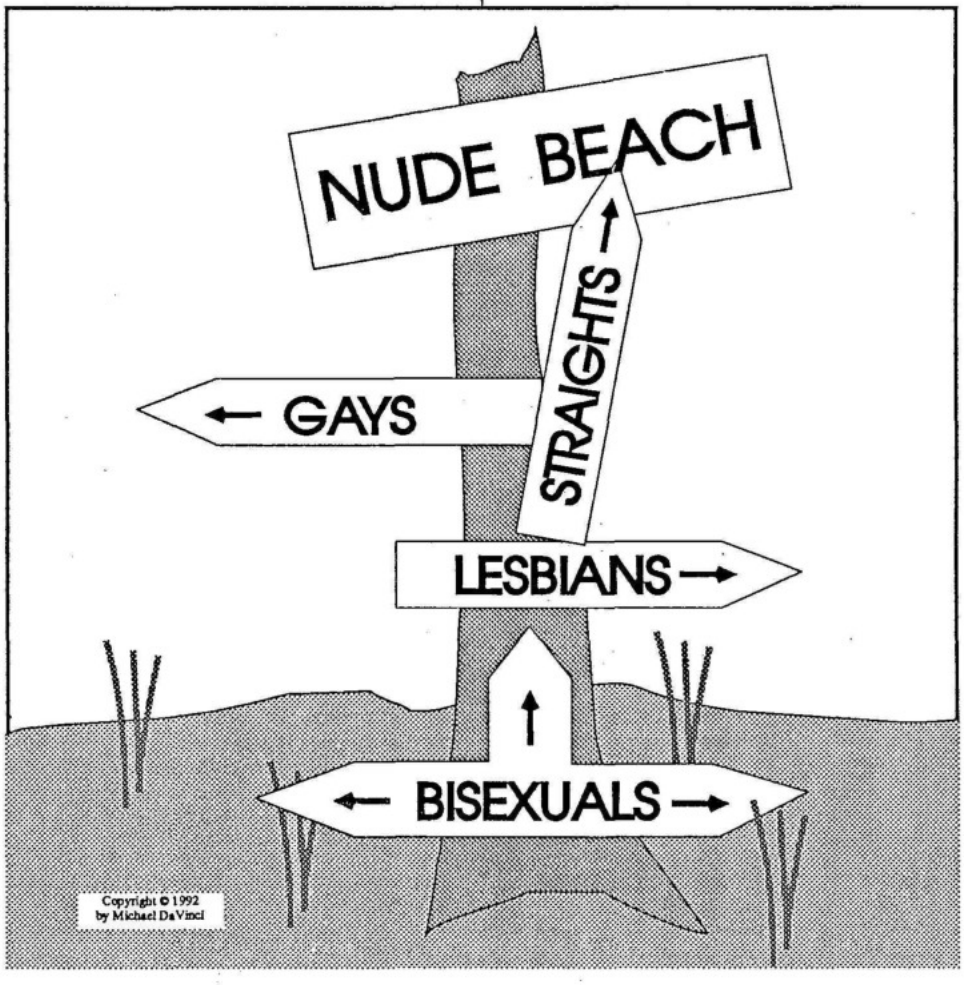
The ruling is expected to have repercussions for all employers not only in Ontario but across Canada as well, and is expected to affect family benefits such as health insurance, dental coverage and bereavement leave as well as survivor pension benefits.

The Human Rights Commission has given the Ontario Government three years to comply with the ruling.

The Tribunal was quoted by the Toronto Star as saying, "Moreover, there is not one shred of evidence before us that extending employment benefits to gay and lesbian employees would undermine society or the state's interest in promoting and sustaining families."

The board of inquiry said support for the traditional family must not exclude other family forms.

The implications for bisexuals in Ontario were not mentioned. The question of individuals with multiple partners is likely to be a tricky one. It is clear, however, that the ruling is a fundamental legal step towards eliminating institutional bias against same-gender relationships in Canada.



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925-XTRA Bi-Line

Information on actitivites in Toronto's bisexual community can be accessed by touch-tone telephone 24 hours a day at 925-9872, extension 2015. Explore the many extension lines and find out what's happening in OBN as well as events in the lesbian/gay communities that may be of interest to bisexual people. The OBN message is updated at least once every week and is open to contributions by everyone. If anyone wishes to advertise a bi social event or a bisexual action group (one that focuses on a specific topic such as music, theory, or political action), please get in touch with Stephen at the next OBN or Diversity meeting.

New Group Called *"DIVERSITY"* Formed at 519 Church

Out of the Ontario Bisexual Network has sprung a new and independent group called *"Diversity"*.

"Diversity" meets on the third Thursday of the month from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the 519 Community Centre on Church St. north of Wellesley St. in Toronto. It offers a drop-in and discussion meeting for "difference-positive" people of *all* orientations.

Everyone is welcome. We hope to see you there. Call 925-XTRA, ext. 2049.

Second International Bisexual Conference

The Second International Bisexual Conference will be held in London, England on October 23rd and 24th, 1992.

The conference will be a mixture of workshops and plenary sessions, with the first morning devoted to finding out about each other's country. Within the conference there will be a women-only conference Saturday morning.

There is a sliding scale registration from free to $15 and payments should be by International Money Order in U.S. funds. Child care and accommodation is available if arranged in advance.

Registration forms and any questions, write to F. Klein, M.D., 4545 Park Boulevard, Suite 207, San Diego, CA 92116.

VIGIL ON THE BRIDGE

(by a tongue-in-cheek guest author filling in for Leo)

Are bisexuals really all that invisible?

Maybe we all give off clues and there is really no such thing as a closet to someone who knows what to watch for!

Have you ever noticed how embarrassed human beings can get about liking each other?

Can you imagine what life will be like when we all get over that?

Are most of us afraid to show how sexual we really are?

How will the government react to wanting pension benefits for *two* spouses?

What would happen if everyone in the world dropped their masks for one hour?

Feel free to forward your answer(s) to any questions appearing in VIGIL ON THE BRIDGE to the OBN News, c/o Léo Beaulieu.

519 Country Fair Saturday, September 12th

The first annual 519 Country Fair is a fundraising event for the 519 Community Centre sponsored by the Trillium Knights of Ontario.

The Fair takes place on Saturday, September 12th from 12 noon to 9 p.m. with two live country stage shows at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Ontario Bisexual Network will be there with an information table stocked with newsletters, "For All Walks of Life" information and pledge forms, and, of course, some very friendly bisexual people, able to answer any questions you may have.

ONTARIO
CANADIAN GAY ARCHIVES

BI PERSONALS

TRANTRIC SEXUALITY group is looking for other gay and bi males of any age interested in occasional recreational sex in a group setting with emphasis on tantric principles and exploration of feelings arising during sexuality. Training provided, no prerequisites. Write Michael, c/o OBN, 519 Church St., Toronto M4Y 6C9.

From All Walks of Life Sunday, October 18th

"From All Walks of Life" is Toronto's pledge walk to benefit AIDS care, education and research. The third annual walk takes place on Sunday, October 18th, and is 10 km. in length, beginning at Nathan Phillips Square (time to be confirmed later).

Proceeds will be divided among 29 HIV/AIDS related agencies, such as Casey House Hospice, Hassle Free Clinic, Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research, Hemophilia Ontario / Toronto Region and the Toronto PWA Foundation.

In many other cities, organizations have walked as a group in solidarity for the cause — perhaps OBN can do the same. Pledge forms and more information will be available at OBN and Diversity meetings and at the 519 Centre.

OBN Activity Groups

All bisexuals are invited to form activity groups based on common interests. Such groups do not require any approval or mandate from OBN — they only require the initiative of the people involved. OBN assists in advertising activity group events to Ontario bisexuals.

OBN Meeting Times

OBN Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the 519 Community Center (519 Church Street, just north of Wellesley). Newsletters are available at the 519 and at every meeting.

Up to the minute announcements of OBN activities can be heard by calling 925-XTRA, ext. 2015.